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Message Text

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PAGE 01 AMMAN 04505 210659Z
ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 INRE-00 NSCE-00 DODE-00
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TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 6150
INFO AMEMBASSY CAIRO PRIORITY
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S E C R E T AMMAN 4505

EXDIS

C O R R E C T E D C O P Y (TEXT CORRECTED PARA 1.)

E.O. 11652 N/A
TAGS: PEPR, JO, EG
SUBJECT: EGYPTIAN VICE PRESIDENT MUBARAK'S VISIT TO JORDAN

REF AMMAN 4472

SUMMARY: ACCORDING TO JORDANIAN PALACE CHIEF SHARAF,
MAJOR ASPECT
OF EGYPTIAN VICE PRESIDENT MUBARAK'S MAY 15 - 16 VISIT TO JORDAN
WAS EGYPT FLOATING IDEA OF ISRAELI TURNOVER OF WEST BANK AND
GAZA TO JORDAN AND EGYPT RESPECTIVELY, AS RETURN TO PRE-1967
STATUS QUO ANTE, WHICH EGYPTIANS BELIEVE ALONG WITH GUARANTEES
TO ISRAEL, COULD PROVIDE ACCEPTABLE BASIS FOR ISRAELI WITHDRAWAL.
KING HUSSEIN LISTENED SYMPATHETICALLY, BUT WAS NON-COMMITTAL.
EGYPTIANS CLAIMED SAUDIS
SOMEWHAT FAVORABLE TO IDEA, BUT JORDAN PLANS TO EXPLORE SAUDI
ATTITUDE DURING THE KING'S MAY 20-21 VISIT TO SAUDI ARABIA.
END SUMMARY.

1. JORDANIAN ROYAL DIWAN CHIEF SHARIF ABDUL HAMID SHARAF
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MAY 17 GAVE ME A READ-OUT ON EGYPTIAN VICE PRESIDENT
MUBARAK'S MAY 15 - 16 VISIT TO JORDAN. SHARAF SAID
MAJOR SUBSTATIVE ASPECT OF VISIT WAS EGYPTIAN PROPOSAL
FOR EGYPT AND JORDAN TO ASSUME CONTROL RESPECTIVELY OF
GAZA AND WEST BANK FOLLOWING AN ISRAELI WITHDRAWAL AND
DURING A SUBSEQUENT TRANTWOION PERIOD. SHARAF SAID
EGYPTIAN EMPHASIS WAS ON RETURN TO A STATUS QUO

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ANTE JUNE, 1967 AS A BASIS, ALONG WITH SUITABLE MUTUAL GUARANTEES,
FOR ARRANGING ISRAELI WITHDRAWAL.
SHARAF SAID JORDAN'S POSITION WAS THAT
THEY ARE CERTAINLY WILLING TO EXPLORE SUCH IDEAS PRO-
VIDED THERE ARE SOME REASONABLE ASSURANCES THAT ISRAEL
WILL IN FACT WITHDRAW; BUT THAT THUS FAR, THE BEGIN GOVERNMENT'S
TRACK RECORD IS NOT AT ALL ENCOURAGING IN THIS RESPECT. MOST
POSITIVE NOTE ON EGYPTIAN PROPOSAL FROM JORDAN'S VIEW-
POINT WAS THAT RETURNING GAZA AND WEST BANK TO EGYPT
AND JORDAN IMPLIES THAT EGYPT PERHAPS SOMEWHAT LESS INCLINED
TOWARD IDEA OF PALESTIANIAN STATE.

2. SHARAF SAID MUBARAK IMPLIED THAT SAUDIS WERE GENERALLY
FAVORABLE TO ABOVE EGYPTIAN FORMULA BUT SHARAF IS
SOMEWHAT SKEPTICAL, FEELING THAT SAUDIS MAY HAVE BEEN
MORE RHETORICAL THAN SUBSTANTIVE IN THEIR SUPPORT SHARAF SAID.
IN PREVIOUS CONTACTS WITH JORDAN ON THIS ISSUE,
SAUDIS HAVE SHOWN THEMSELVES TO BE MORE PARTIAL TO ALLOWING
PLO RATHER THAN JORDAN TAKE THE LEAD ON WEST BANK
ISSUE AND IN PROMOTING CONCEPT OF INDEPENDENT STATE.

3. SHARAF SAID JORDAN INTENDS TO CHECK DIRECTLY WITH
SAUDIS ON THIS ISSUE DURING KING HUSSEIN'S MAY 20-21
VISIT TO SAUDI ARABIA. KING IS PLANNING VISIT IN
VERY LOW-KEY MANNER IN ORDER TO MINIMIZE SAUDI ROYAL
PROTOCOL BECAUSE HE WANT TO SPEND MAXIMUM AMOUNT OF
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TIME POSSIBLE WITH CROWN PRINCE FAHD. SHARAF SAYS
KING HUSSEIN NEEDS TO DISCUSS WITH FAHD NOT ONLY
MIDDLE EAST NEGOTIATIONS BUT ALSO JORDANIAN
FINANCIL PROBLEMS AND NEEDS.

4. SHARAF DENIED THAT MUBARAK HAD CARRIED ANY LETTER
FROM SADAT TO KING HUSSEIN, ALTHOUGH HE HAD A SET OF
TALKING POINTS HE FOLLOWED CLOSELY. OTHER SUBSTANTIVE
ASPECT OF VISIT REVEALED THAT EGYPT
IS NOW FEELING EFFECTS OF ISOLATION FROM
OTHER ARABS AND IS TENTATIVELY EXPLORING POSSIBLE
WAYS OF MAKING SOME RECONCILIATION. TO YHZOOLT
KING HUSSEIN DISCUSSED WITH OUBARAK WAYS THAT ARABS
COULD "CUSHION" THEIR POSITION IN CASE THE SADAT INITIATIVE FAILS.
JORDAN'S EMPHASIS IS ON BEING ABLE TO RETAIN A POSITIVE ARAB
ATTITUDE TOWARD IDEA OF PEACE NEGOTIATIONS EVEN WITH A FAILED
SADAT INITIATIVE, RATHER THAN SEEING OVER-REACTION FROM ARAB
WORLD, WHICH COULD LEAD TO DISASTROUS CONSEQUENCES. SHARAF
ADDED HE WAS PARTICULARLY IMPRESSED BY COMPETENCE SOME OF THE
YOUNG AMERICAN-EDUCATED FOREIGN MINISTRY PEOPLE WITH MUBARAK.

6. COMMENT: I GOT IMPRESSION FROM SHARAF'S ROMARKS

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THAT JORDAN LISTENED CAREFULLY AND SYMPATHETICALLY TO
MUBARAK'S PRESENTATION BUT, IN THE ABSENCE OF PROMG ING
INDICATIONS OF ISRAELI WILLINGENESS TO WITHDRAW FROM
WEST BANK, JORDAN IS CERTAINLY NOT COMMITTING ITSELF TO JOINING
NEGOTIATIONS. IT WILL BE INTERESTING TO SEO POSITION
THAT SAUDIS TAKE WITH JORDANIANS REGARDING NEGOTIATIONS,
GIVEN FACT THAT MUBARAK IS VISITING SAUDI ARABIA AGAIN
PRIOR TO KING HUSSEIN'S ARRIVAL.
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